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BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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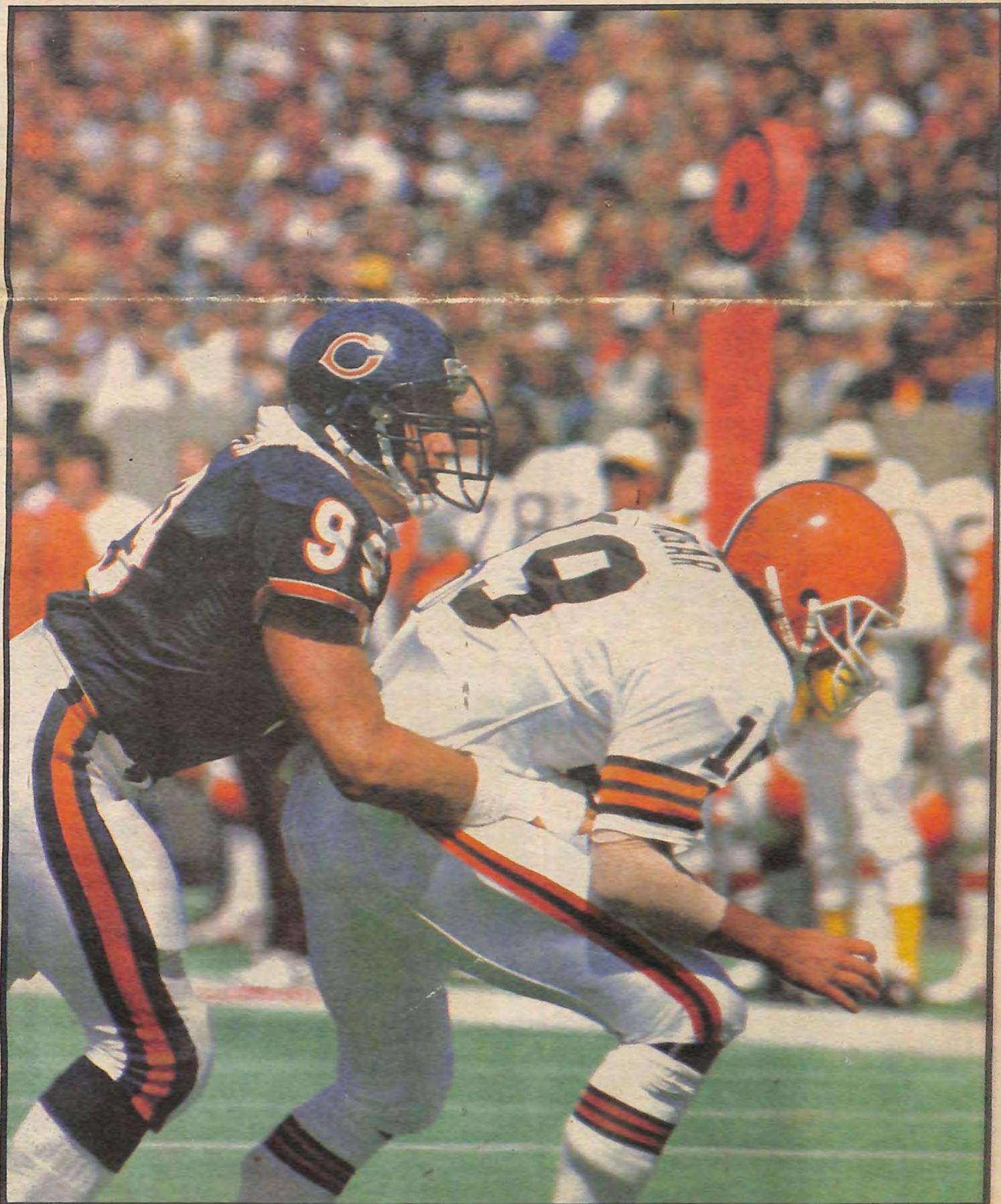
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A newspaper devoted exclusively to the Chicago Bears and the NFL

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Dan Hampton has been leading the Bears' rush this year. Here, he catches up to Cleveland's Bernie Kosar in the first game of the season. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Bear bait snags Bengals

Bear bait caught its biggest fish of the year at Cincinnati without a struggle.

For a lot of fans it was a long wait from the Super Bowl win to the first rout of the season on Sunday. The Bears have proved they are capable of playing this year the way they did last year. If it was a concern before, it shouldn't be now.

Sunday's game was a good old-fashioned rout, the kind Bear fans came to expect last season. But what made Sunday's game a little special was that the Bears did it against the Bengals on their home field.

Cincinnati is a tough opponent for any team this year because of its balanced attack on offense. The Bengals can come at you with their powerful backfield of James Brooks and Larry Kinnebrew. And the Bengals are known for trying just about anything with their passing game.

Fortunately for the Bears, they were able to pressure quarterback Boomer Esiason into throwing the ball where he might not have wanted to. Esiason's accuracy also was thrown off by the Bears' defensive line, which led to his four interceptions.

Cincinnati even opened the game by running its offense with no huddle to throw off the Bear defense. But that seemed to throw off the Bengals more than the Bears.

As for the Bears' defense against the run, it was another great performance. I've been talking about the good job the Bear defense has done all season on the Doug Buffone-Rich King Talk Show Wednesday nights on Sportsvision.

Chicago has been shutting down its opponents' running games all year, and Sunday was no exception. Cincinnati was held to under 70 yards rushing, an excellent job by the Bear line.

The Bear defense was so effective against the run Cincinnati didn't even try running the ball much. But the Bengals didn't have much success passing the ball either.

The Bear secondary only gave up one long pass all day,

its best performance of the season. And, of course, there were all those interceptions.

And the offense? Well, with Jim McMahon healthy again, so is the Bear offense. McMahon showed no signs of missing three weeks of action. McMahon and Gault emerged as a powerful one-two punch in the game, and fans are sure to see more of that combination in the season.

With McMahon passing so well, the Bears didn't need a running game. But Thomas Sanders added one anyway while breaking open two runs.

Something that surprised a lot of people was that Coach Mike Ditka went after the Bengals right away. It really opened them up well.

Another thing that made the win special for Chicago was that it came off the Monday night game against Green Bay with one less day of practice. Cincinnati, on the other hand, played the previous Thursday and had extra time to prepare for the game. But that may have worked against the Bengals because they may have gotten rusty during all that time off.

But remember, things won't get much easier for Chicago. Sunday's game against the Vikings looks to be another good one. Minnesota also is coming off a rout, a 42-7 win over Green Bay. The Vikings are only one game behind the Bears and would love to move into a tie for the division lead.

The Bears will have to be prepared for this game because the Vikings are much more familiar with Chicago than Cincinnati was. It only stands to reason that teams get to know each other well after playing each other twice a year for a while. And the big difference in Minnesota this year is that the Vikings have gone back to playing defense.

If Chicago gets by the Vikings without much difficulty, it will be in good shape in the division with a two-game lead after five weeks.



The Bear defense hardly allowed any rushing yardage against the Bengals Sunday. Here, Bill Johnson is driven down by Otis Wilson (55), Steve McMichael (76) and Gary Fencik. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Interceptions key Bears' 44-7 rout

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

After the Packer game in Green Bay, Bears' coach Mike Ditka said he didn't mind winning ugly. Judging from the Bears' game against Cincinnati Sunday at Riverfront Stadium, the Bears have taken winning ugly to heart.

Chicago scored 21 points in the game as a result of interceptions thrown by Bengal quarterback Boomer Esiason on its way to a 44-7 trouncing of the Bengals.

The game wasn't a pretty one and featured seven turnovers, including five interceptions thrown by Bengal quarterbacks.

"It was our day today," Ditka said. "Defensively we handled most everything they threw at us. It just happened that way. It was our day today. Next time we play them it might be their day."

It wasn't long before the game was decided as turnovers played a key role in the Bears' 21-0 first quarter lead.

Each time the Bengals gave the Bears the ball in the first quarter, they also gave them great field position. Chicago came out throwing with Jim McMahon at quarterback. McMahon completed passes of 21 and 32 yards to Willie Gault on the first two plays of the game.

"When the first two plays worked, it set the tone for the rest of the game," McMahon said.

The Bears worked the ball to the Cincinnati 19-yard line when the rash of turnovers began. Keith Ortego fumbled after catching a pass from McMahon, giving the Bengals the ball at their five-yard line.

Esiason throws three interceptions

Cincinnati quarterback Boomer Esiason then threw the first of his three interceptions in the quarter when Gary Fencik picked off the pass, returning it to the two-yard line. Reggie Phillips also was covering on the play.

"It was just a nice break by Reggie on a three-deep zone," Fencik said. "And it got tipped up in the air. The ball was up there a long time. The only other thing I should have done was score. I really thought I could score."

Two plays later McMahon sneaked in for the score.

On Cincinnati's next possession, Wilber Marshall got his turn to intercept the ball, returning it five yards to the Bengals' 37-yard line.

McMahon got into the charity act by throwing his next pass to Cincinnati's Leo Barker.

Then for the third consecutive play a pass was intercepted, this time by Chicago's Otis Wilson, giving the Bears the ball at the 17-yard line.



Jim McMahon was back in action Sunday at Cincinnati and led the Bears with three touchdown passes in the Bears' 44-7 win over the Bengals. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Chicago hung on to the ball and scored six plays later on a two-yard touchdown pass from McMahon to Walter Payton.

Steve McMichael lined up as a tight end on the play but didn't get the ball. "It was designed to go to McMichael or Walter and McMichael was covered," McMahon said.

Chicago had scored 14 points on drives totalling 19 yards.

Gault scores on bomb

The Bears stretched their lead to 21-0 before the end of the quarter on a 53-yard bomb from McMahon to Willie Gault.

"I was just going half-speed so I could set him up," Gault said about the play. "Once I saw the ball coming I just turned it on. It was a perfect throw. Jim got the snap from center, the line gave great protection and the ball was right there in my hands. I had no choice but to catch it."

"We were trying to get the ball to Willie more and that helps," Ditka said. "Willie was outstanding. We were running Willie across the field and they were in a lot of man

coverage on first down. Even when you play a zone it's really tough to cover Willie across the field. We worked it four or five times and it worked every time."

The 21 points the Bengals allowed in the first quarter tied a Bengal record, set when Seattle scored 21 points in the first quarter at Riverfront Stadium in 1981.

"When we get a jump on them by 21 points, we're going to beat some people," McMahon said.

The Bengals got on the scoreboard in the second quarter when Esiason completed a five-yard touchdown pass to James Brooks. The score was set up on a 51-yard completion from Esiason to Mike Martin. Esiason avoided two Bear rushers while scrambling to get off the pass.

Bears lucky on fumbles

The Bears added a 41-yard field goal by Kevin Butler to lead 24-7 at halftime. The Bears gained 44 yards on the drive that started at the Chicago 33. The Bears got a break in the middle of the drive when Emery Moorehead fumbled the ball to the Bengals after catching a pass from McMahon. But Cincinnati was called for holding during the fumble, giving the ball back to the Bears.

It was the second time in the game a Bears' fumble was nullified because of a penalty against Cincinnati.

Going into the second half the Bengals still weren't finished giving up the ball. Ken Anderson, who replaced Esiason in the third quarter, fumbled the ball at the Bengals' 46-yard line and Chicago's Keith Van Horne recovered it.

Three plays later McMahon completed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Moorehead for a 31-7 lead.

McMahon left the game after that series. "McMahon's fine," Ditka said. "There's no sense having him in a game at that point."

Continued Page 14



Thomas Sanders scores the first of his two touchdowns on this one-yard dive in the second half against Cincinnati. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears-Bengals Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY						
Chicago	21	3	14	6	—	44
Cincinnati	0	7	0	0	—	7
Bears, 1st, 5:22, McMahon 1-yard run (Butler kick) 7-0						
Bears, 1st, 11:52, Payton 2-yard pass from McMahon (Butler kicked) 14-0						
Bears, 2nd, 14:12, Gault 53-yard from McMahon (Butler kick) 21-0						
Bengals, 2nd, 2:07, Brooks 5-yard pass from Esaison (Breech kick) 21-7						
Bears, 2nd, 13:15, FG Butler 41-yards, 24-7						
Bears, 3rd, 3:40, Moorehead 20-yd. pass from McMahon (Butler kick) 31-7						
Bears, 3rd, 14:57, Sanders 1-yard run (Butler kick) 38-7						
Bears, 4th, 2:23, Sanders 75-yard pass from Fuller (kick failed) 44-7						

Attendance: 55,146; tickets distributed 55,994; Unused 848; Time 3 hours, 30 min.

Weather: hot and humid; temperature: 84 degrees; wind and direction: from west 3 mph

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Chicago	Cincinnati
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	23	16
By Rushing	9	13
By Passing	11	12
By Penalty	3	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-12	4-14
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	0-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	476	338
Total Off. Plays (Inc. times passing)	62	67
Av. Gain per Off. Play	7.7	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	222	60
Total Rushing Plays	35	18
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	6.3	3.3
NET YARDS PASSING	254	278
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	1-5	4-28
Gross Yds. Passing	259	306
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	26-15-1	45-22-5
Av. Gain Per Pass Play (Inc. times thrown passing)	9.4	5.7
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	5-44.0	7-38.0
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	88	134
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	4-28	1-12
No. and Yds. KO Returns	2-6	5-122
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	5-54	1-0
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	8-60	13-90
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	3-1	1-0
TOUCHDOWNS	6	1
Rushing	3	0
Passing	3	1
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	5-6	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	1-1	0-0
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:24	27:36

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago Bears

	Net	Long	TD	TKD	Had
RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Gain	TD
Suhey	3	9	3	5	0
Payton	10	51	5.1	29	0
McMahon	1	1	1	1	1
Thomas	11	43	3.9	9	0
Anderson	6	23	3.8	23	0
Sanders	4	95	23.8	75	2

Johnson	3	22	7.3	14	0
Collinsworth	1	-10	-10	-10	0
Jennings	2	11	5.5	6	0
Gaynor	1	4	4	4	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Int.
PASSING	30	14	212	3/23	1	51	4
Esiason	12	5	64	0/0	0	43	1
Anderson	3	3	30	1/5	0	16	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING	6	115	43	0
Collinsworth	1	12	12	0
Holman	2	57	51	0
Martin	3	18	7	1
Brooks	1	10	10	0
Brown	5	20	5	0
Johnson	2	24	15	0
McGee	2	50	34	0
Jennings	1	0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS	1	0	0	0
Barker	1	0	0	0
PUNTING	7	265	38	1
Hayes	1	2	52	0

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS	1	1	12	12	0
Martin	0	1	0	0	0
McGee	1	23	23	0	0
KICKOFF RETURNS	4	99	28	0	0
McGee	1	23	23	0	0
Jennings	1	1	-1	0	0

	Fum.	Rec.	Own Yds.
FUMBLIES	0	0	0
Billups	1	1	-1
Esiason	1	1	-1

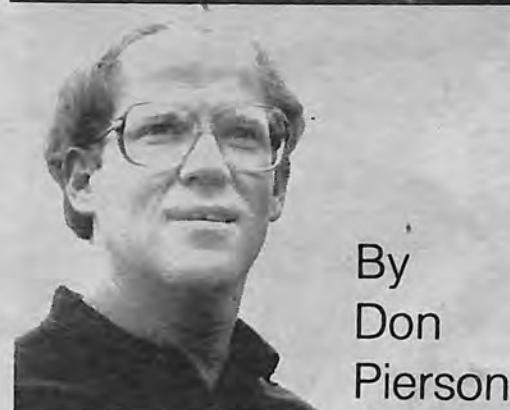
DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (Unofficial)						
Bears						
Duerson	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD
Richardson	3	0	0	0	0	2
Fencik	3	0	0	0	1	1
Phillips	2	0	0	0	0	1
Singletary	7	2	0	0	0	0
Wilson	3	1	1	-10	1	1
Marshall	1	1	0	0	1	0
McMichaels	2	1	½	-5	0	0
Hampton	1	1	0	0	0	0
Payton	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ortego	1	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Thomas	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rains	4	0	0	0	0	0
Harris	2	1	1	-8	0	0
Gayle	2	0	0	0	0	0
Morrissey	3	0	0	0	0	0
Van Horne	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hartenstine	1	1	1½	-5	0	0
Rivera	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	1	0	0	0	1	0
Waechter	1	0	0	0	0	0

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Billups	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kemp	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fuller does his job, then waits for next chance

Sometimes, Mike Ditka appears to be coaching in the American Youth Soccer Organization instead of the National Football League. Everybody plays.

Ditka was genuinely embarrassed and upset after week two when guard Kurt Becker didn't get into the game. He allowed No. 1 draft choice Neal Anderson to make his debut in week three. Anderson showed he can be valuable covering punts and Ditka also demonstrated he can get him into the same backfield with Walter Payton if he just stretches his imagination a bit.



By
Don
Pierson

When Dennis Gentry was injured, Keith Ortego immediately stepped into the Packer game and scored the clinching touchdown on a 42-yard play. Clay Pickering? Sure, he'll play if Gentry can't. Gentry already is playing in place of injured Dennis McKinnon.

Is there a coach in football with more faith in his players? When Ditka is ranting on the sidelines, wagging fingers in embarrassed faces, he manages to disguise his faith quite well. But it is mainly because he places such a heavy burden on them in the first place.

Wasn't it unfair, for example, to saddle young quarterback Mike Tomczak with a new formation during the same week he was making his first start?

"It's a lot. I probably did give him too much, but I don't look at it that way," said Ditka. "When coaching, you look at defeating what you're up against."

Ditka doesn't mince words about Tomczak

As usual, Ditka was brutally candid in his assessment of Tomczak after the Packers game. He had replaced him with Steve Fuller because Tomczak was not throwing the ball well, was not looking downfield and was not calling the right formations with the right plays.

Anything else?

Oh yes, he was setting up at five steps sometimes instead of three.

For Tomczak's sake, it was a good thing he threw no interceptions, avoided all sacks and completed all four of his passes in the second half before Ditka unceremoniously yanked him.

And yet Tomczak was unbowed.

"Steve won the game for us. I'm young. I'm learning. I'm a competitor. Coach Ditka knows I'm not going to be down on myself," said Tomczak.

Fuller is the best example of responding to Ditka's particular "all-for-one-and-one-for-all" style of coaching.

A No. 1 draft choice, Fuller joined the Bears as a No. 2 quarterback and slipped to No. 3 during the promising preseasn showing of Tomczak.

Forgotten man comes back

Ditka called him "the forgotten man" and proclaimed his confidence in him. If anything, Ditka has proven many times he is not afraid to play any of his players at any time. So Fuller was not devastated by his "demotion."

"I never put a label on it. I was a backup quarterback and Mike was a backup quarterback, but I was really No. 3 and I was not terribly upset because I wasn't playing well. I wasn't doing the things I felt I should be doing to help the team," said Fuller.

But when it counted, Fuller won another game.

"It helped my confidence a great deal without question," said Fuller. "Confidence was one of the big reasons I wasn't playing well. One mistake would build on another mistake. When things were not going well, I found a way to put pressure on myself. Nine out of 10 times, that's where it belonged."

You had to wonder about the future of Fuller in Chicago, unless you understood the nature of things under Ditka. If the atmosphere doesn't seem right, wait a minute.

Ditka's experiment with Tomczak implied a disappointment with Fuller, but Ditka didn't lose as much confidence

Continued Next Page



Jim McMahon discusses some strategy with offensive coordinator Ed Hughes and Coach Mike Ditka during Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Fuller

Continued From Page 5

as Fuller had.

"I was fortunate enough to get into a game when it counted," said Fuller. "You can't play the position when you're not confident. You don't need to be cocky or show the team you're a rebelrousing leading. But you do have to be confident and they have to see that in you. It just wasn't there for two or three weeks. It took a chance to play to turn that around. I don't know how else I could have got it back."

Fuller's comeback in the third game was full of irony. It was the third game of the 1985 season in which Ditka yanked Fuller and replaced him with Jim McMahon, who threw three touchdown passes and won the game.

Fuller wasn't looking downfield enough, said Ditka at the time.

Fuller doesn't want to leave

After the Packer game, Fuller was asked for the one-thousandth time about his desire to be a starting quarterback, perhaps someplace else.

"One game and you've got him traded off," joked Ditka.

No thanks, said Fuller, who has accepted the role of backup and is a true believer in the 45-man effort.

"It gets awfully frustrating. Always has been. But you accept the role, recognize the positives and negatives, and go on with your job," said Fuller. "There's really no other way to look at it. If there ever came a point where they were not being fair with me or telling me things that weren't true, I might have a gripe. But that has never been the case since I've been here. Whether I've been No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3, there has always been a good reason for it. All you can ask is for somebody to look you in the eye and tell you the truth."

The truth is that Steve Fuller will get another chance to play with the Bears and contribute to another victory, the same way that Keith Ortego and Kurt Becker and Neal Anderson will. It might even be in another Super Bowl.

"I'm very comfortable right here. It's not an easy situation and maybe there's more negatives than positives. But it's something I've accepted," said Fuller. "My family lives here year-round. I feel part of this team."



Otis Wilson reaches Cincinnati quarterback Boomer Esiason just after Esiason gets off his pass Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears come out of game with no serious injuries

After routing a team like the Bears did on Sunday, injuries from the game is about the only concern. But the Bears managed to come out relatively free from injuries in the game.

Richard Dent appears to be the most seriously injured with a pulled muscle. Coach Mike Ditka said he wasn't sure how serious the injury is yet and that it's too early to tell if he'll play next week against the Vikings at Soldier Field.

The only other injury sustained by a Bear was a kneecap injury to Matt Suhey. Suhey hurt it and had some fluid taken out of the knee, but he is expected to be ready for the Viking game.



Bear Notebook

Because of the rout, everyone on the Bears was able to play in the game, which is something Ditka often likes to do.

"We played everyone on our football team and I think that's what this game's all about," Ditka said.

DITKA WAS SORRY to hear that Green Bay Packer Tim Lewis retired from football on doctor's recommendations.

Lewis jammed his neck when he hit the Bears' Willie Gault during the Monday night game. Doctors said another hit like that could cause permanent damage to Lewis.

"I'm really sorry to hear that," Ditka said. "I think Tim Lewis is a quality football player. And that disturbs me very much. You hate to see those things happen, and especially to quality people like Tim. He's a class athlete and a great guy. You just don't like to see it happen. The game is a tough game. You certainly don't like the injury aspect, but it's part of the game."

Before the Packer game, a lot of talk surfaced about how rough the game would be played. But it turned out to be a clean game, and the hit Lewis was hurt on was also clean.

"There was nothing that could be done," Ditka said. "They both dropped their heads. It really could have happened to either one of them."

"I've had my neck hurt like that, but not to the degree

Tim's had it. And it hurts."

Ditka then was asked if he ever was hurt to an extent where he lost feeling on the field. "I've had a few calls where I've lost my mind on the field," he said.

THE INSTANT REPLAY RULE caused some controversy again during the Green Bay game. On one play, a Packer fumble that was recovered by the Bears was nullified and ruled an incomplete pass. Ditka wasn't happy about the way it worked out, but declined to pass judgment on the rule.

"I'd rather not get involved with it," he said. "It's going to take some time. Everybody expected it to be perfect and foolproof, but it's not. So people are getting down on it and I don't think that's right, either."

"It's in for a year. So at the end of the year analyze it. If it's good, keep it. If it's bad, throw it out. These guys are only human. One way or the other, they're going to make mistakes."

WILLIAM PERRY SPENT most of last week recovering from a partially dislocated kneecap he suffered in the Green Bay game. Perry was hit low on a block, which knocked his kneecap out of place. The knee swelled, but he began practicing a little on Thursday.

Ditka said Perry will have to learn to start pushing people down if they try to cut him down.

"I just think people are going to start cutting him now," he said. "I don't blame them. No one who stands up to him can block him one on one. And even when they double team him, he causes a lot of problems."

JIM MCMAHON BEGAN THROWING with his new pads last Wednesday. McMahon was able to adjust to the pads well and throw the ball easily while wearing them.

"McMahon threw the ball fine today. He looked great," Ditka said on Wednesday. "He looked like Doc Blanchard out there today. He had no problems with the pads and threw good with them. Of course, we won't throw the ball Sunday anyway. We just do that in practice to humor our people."

DAN HAMPTON DIDN'T PRACTICE on Wednesday because of a sore left knee. "We gave Hampton the day off. he needed the day off," Ditka said. "He's got the kind of legs that you can't work on everyday anyway."

DESPITE THE POSSIBILITY last week of William Perry and Dan Hampton missing the Cincinnati game, Ditka wasn't worried that much. That's because he has a lot of confidence in his backups.

"You have to understand that when we keep these people, we don't keep them just for the idea to say we're going to fill out our squad with extra people," Ditka said. "These are people who we know can play. Mike Hartenstein has played and started in the league for years. Hen-



Jim McMahon did his Arab impression to keep cool Sunday in the 110-degree field temperature at Riverfront Stadium. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

ry Waechter has nothing to apologize for. He filled in for us a couple years ago when we went to the playoffs and played outstanding. And he played outstanding when he played last year.

"They'll line up and play. They might not be as effective as the other two guys, but you'll get a good day's work out of them."

KEITH ORTEGO TOOK advantage of his playing time against Green Bay by scoring a touchdown, and Ditka has no problem with putting him in the lineup.

"He's really been reliable," Ditka said. "He's a guy when a quarterback calls a route, you know where he's going to be. He may not run it as cute as some other guys or as fast, but you know where he's going to be. He's dependable, he takes pride in what he does."

Ortego wasn't a favorite to make the team in pre-season but impressed the staff with his consistency.

"The odds were stacked against him," Ditka said. "I had a hard time seeing Keith making our team early in camp. I have a feeling he's going to do more than make the team. He's going to be a big factor."

MANY FANS HAVEN'T been impressed by the Bears' play so far this season. But Ditka believes the standard the Bears set last year is reachable this year.

"We have to measure ourselves against ourselves," he said. "I think we're the standard. We don't worry too much about the other teams in the league. We set a standard last year that's possible to do. We proved it. Now, can we do it again? And we haven't done it yet. But we're striving toward it. That's our goal."

CINCINNATI'S OFFENSE IS one of the tougher ones in the NFL to prepare for because it does so many different things. So while preparing for it, Ditka said the defense was working on everything.

"We've prepared for everything and I'm sure they're going to find something else we haven't prepared for," he said. "And we'll have to try to do the best we can against it."

DITKA ON THE BEARS' offense: "Our offense is kind of like Baskin-Robbins without all the flavors. We just line up and go. It's easy to defend us."

Radio, TV Coverage

The Bears' game against Minnesota will be televised by CBS, WBBM-TV (channel 2) in Chicago. WGN (720 AM) will carry the game on radio.

Also on radio, "The Mike Ditka Show" is broadcast Sunday at 9:05 p.m. on WBBM-AM (780).



The Bears' offensive line opened up big holes for the running backs Sunday, allowing the Bears to do what they wanted to against the Cincinnati defense. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



Minnesota Vikings Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
1	Chuck Nelson	K	5-11	175	26	3	Washington
8	Greg Coleman	P	6-0	180	32	10	Florida A&M
9	Tommy Kramer	QB	6-2	202	31	10	Rice
11	Wade Wilson	QB	6-3	210	27	6	East Texas St.
13	Steve Bono	QB	6-3	211	24	2	UCLA
20	Darrin Nelson	RB	5-9	185	27	5	Stanford
21	Rufus Bess	CB	5-9	187	30	8	S. Carolina St.
23	Ted Brown	RB	5-10	206	29	8	N. Carolina St.
26	David Evans	CB	6-0	180	27	1	Central Arkansas
30	Issiac Holt	CB	6-1	197	24	2	Alcorn St.
35	Kyle Morell	S	6-1	189	23	1	Brigham Young
36	Allen Rice	RB	5-10	198	24	3	Baylor
39	Carl Lee	DB	5-11	185	25	4	Marshall
44	John Harris	S	6-2	204	29	9	Arizona St.
45	Wayne Wilson	RB	6-3	220	29	8	Shepherd
46	Alfred Anderson	RB	6-1	213	25	3	Baylor
47	Joey Browner	S	6-2	205	26	4	USC
51	Jim Hough	C/G	6-2	268	30	9	Utah State
54	Jesse Solomon	LB	6-0	249	23	R	Florida State
55	Scott Studwell	LB	6-2	231	32	10	Illinois
56	Chris Doleman	LB	6-5	250	25	2	Pittsburgh
57	Chris Martin	LB	6-2	230	26	4	Auburn
58	Walker Lee Ashley	LB	6-0	231	26	3	Penn State
62	Brent Boyd	G	6-3	275	29	6	UCLA
65	Gary Zimmerman	T	6-6	280	25	1	Oregon
66	Terry Tausch	G	6-5	270	27	5	Texas
67	Dennis Swilley	C	6-3	245	31	9	Texas A&M
71	Mark MacDonald	G	6-4	267	25	2	Boston College
72	David Huffman	T	6-6	283	29	7	Notre Dame
73	Neil Elshire	DE	6-6	261	28	6	Oregon
75	Keith Millard	DT	6-6	260	24	2	Washington St.
76	Tim Irwin	T	6-7	288	27	6	Tennessee
77	Mark Mullaney	DE	6-6	242	33	12	Colorado State
79	Doug Martin	DE	6-3	255	29	7	Washington
80	Jim Gustafson	WR	6-1	185	25	1	St. Thomas
82	Carl Hilton	TE	6-3	229	22	R	Houston
83	Steve Jordan	TE	6-3	231	25	5	Brown
84	Hassan Jones	WR	6-0	198	22	R	Florida St.
86	Mike Mularkey	TE	6-4	233	25	4	Florida
87	Leo Lewis	WR	5-8	172	30	6	Missouri
88	Buster Rhymes	WR	6-1	212	24	2	Oklahoma
91	Joe Phillips	DT	6-4	280	23	R	SMU
95	Gerald Robinson	DE	6-3	253	23	R	Auburn
96	Tim Newton	DT	6-0	302	23	2	Florida
99	David Howard	LB	6-2	225	25	2	Cal St. Lg. Beach

INJURED RESERVE

Willie Teal CB; Neal Guggemos S; Kirk Lowdermilk C; Grant Feasel T; Gary Schippang T; Anthony Carter WR; Sammy White WR.

HEAD COACH: Jerry Burns

ASSISTANTS: Bob Schnelker, Floyd Peters, Tom Batta, Pete Carroll, Monte Kiffin, John Michels, Dick Rehbein, Marc Trestman, Paul Wiggin



QUARTERBACK TOMMY KRAMER



Sunday, Oct. 5 Soldier Field Chicago

Noon, CST

Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
52	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
86	Clay Pickering	WR	6-5	215	25	3	Maine
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
99	Dan Harpton	DT	6-5	267	28	6	Arkansas

Injured Reserve — LB Brian Cabral, OT Andy Frederick, FB E.J. Jones, RB Calvin Murray, LG Rick Schulte, TE Riley Walton, WR Doug Donley, TE Tim Stracka, OG Stefan Humphries, WR Ken Margerum.

Physically Unable to Perform — WR Dennis McKinnon, CB Leslie Frazier.

Non-Football Injury — WR Glenn Kozlowski.

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.

Special to the Bear Report

When Jerry Burns became the fourth head coach of the Minnesota Vikings last January, his No. 1 goal was to bring the club back to respectability.

During the past three seasons, the Vikings had become a doormat in the NFC Central. As a result of the downfall Bud Grant retired, came back for one season, and retired again. Burns had been an assistant under Grant since 1968, so it was only natural that he deserved a chance to lead the team out of mediocrity.

Of course, Burns knew that in order for the Vikings to challenge the Bears for the division title this year, the team would have to get a lot of production out of quarterback Tommy Kramer.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Burns criticized Kramer for not providing the kind of leadership a 10-year veteran signal-caller should display. Kramer obviously took the coach's words to heart as he threw three touchdown passes in a 31-7 victory over the Steelers on September 21. But that was only the beginning. Last Sunday against the Packers at the Metrodome, Kramer had the best day of his career as he tossed six touchdown passes in a 42-7 win over lowly Green Bay. Three of those touchdown

strikes came in the first six minutes of the game. Kramer has silenced all the critics, including Burns.

"I don't know what the people wanted the first two games," said Kramer. Minnesota lost its opener to Detroit (13-10) and defeated the Buccaneers (23-10). "We were 1-1 and didn't exactly get ripped in the game we lost. I know I have to play well for this team to go places. But you have to take what the defense gives you."

Vikings win three straight

Thanks to Kramer's prowess, the Vikings come into Soldier Field riding a three-game winning streak and trail the world champion Bears by just one game in the NFC Central race. Not only is Kramer hot, but so is the Minnesota defense. It leads



RUNNING BACK DARRIN NELSON



DEFENSIVE TACKLE KEITH MILLARD

Lineups

Minnesota **Chicago**

Offense

WR	84 Hassan Jones, 88 Buster Rhymes
LT	65 Gary Zimmerman, 72 David Huffman
LG	51 Jim Hough, 62 Brent Boyd
C	67 Dennis Swilley, 51 Jim Hough
RG	66 Terry Tausch, 71 Mark MacDonald
RT	76 Tim Irwin, 72 David Huffman
TE	83 Steve Jordan, 86 Mike Mularkey
FL	87 Leo Lewis, 89 Mike Jones
QB	9 Tommy Kramer, 11 Wade Wilson
FB	46 Alfred Anderson, 23 Ted Brown
RB	20 Darrin Nelson, 36 Allen Rice

WR	83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
LT	74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
LG	62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
C	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
RG	57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
RT	78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
TE	87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
WR	29 Dennis Gentry, 89 Keith Ortego
RB	34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
FB	26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
QB	9 Jim McMahon, 18 Mike Tomczak

Defense

LE	79 Doug Martin, 73 Neil Elshire
LT	96 Tim Newton, 91 Joe Phillips
RT	75 Keith Millard, 98 Gary Palumbis
RE	77 Mark Mullaney, 95 Gerald Robinson
LLB	56 Chris Doleman, 57 Chris Martin
MLB	55 Scott Studwell, 58 Walker Lee Ashley
RLB	99 David Howard, 54 Jesse Solomon
LCB	30 Issiac Holt, 27 John Turner
RCB	39 Carl Lee, 28 Ted Rosnagle
SS	47 Joey Browner, 21 Rufus Bess
FS	43 Mike Lush, 35 Kyle Morrell

LE	99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstein
LT	76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
RT	72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
RE	95 Richard Dent, 73 Mike Hartenstein
LLB	55 Otis Wilson, 59 Ron Rivera
MLB	50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
RLB	58 Wilber Marshall, 90 Al Harris
LC	27 Mike Richardson, 24 Veste Jackson
RC	48 Reggie Phillips, 24 Veste Jackson
SS	22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
FS	45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Specialists

K	1 Chuck Nelson, 5 Jeff Brockhaus
P	8 Greg Coleman
PC	51 Jim Hough, 72 David Huffman
KC	51 Jim Hough, 72 David Huffman
H	8 Greg Coleman
KOR	21 Rufus Bess, 88 Buster Rhymes
PR	21 Rufus Bess, 87 Leo Lewis

PK	6 Kevin Butler
P	8 Maury Buford
PR	81 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
KR	29 Dennis Gentry, 20 Thomas Sanders
KC	63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
PC	52 Larry Rubens, 63 Jay Hilgenberg
H	4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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Willie Gault had to be pleased with his performance against the Bengals and glad to be teaming up with Jim McMahon again. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

The Bears' Tom Thayer takes a breather during the Bears' game against the Bengals Sunday. Field temperature at game time was 110 degrees. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Three-back offense swings pendulum away from defense

First off, it's not a full-house backfield. It starts with three people behind the quarterback, but at least one leaves before the snap. Sometimes, all three scatter to the sidelines.

It's a three-back offense, and it's a close cousin to the one-back offense. It gives a ball carrier the same head start from several yards back. It has the same possibilities for a kaleidoscope of formations.

Three backs have been used by a lot of teams lately for a lot of reasons. If Bear coach Mike Ditka's reason works out, it'll be used by a lot more teams.

Ditka used it to beat the 46 defense. Simple as that.

Ditka was trying to cut the 46 down to size even when its guru, Buddy Ryan, was working as his own defensive coordinator. He couldn't hide his delight when Walter Payton ran for 192 yards last year against the Packers' 46. "I think we showed some other people how to attack the 46," Ditka said.

The Bears showed an even better way when Payton ran for 177 yards against Philadelphia, where Ryan now is head coach. Offensive coordinator Ed Hughes was careful to assign credit properly. "I would say Walter Payton was the reason why it worked," he said, and it's true Payton could run from an acrobats' pyramid formation if he had to. But the three-back sets made sense against the 46.

The 46 is hard to run against because it has two linebackers on the offense's strong side. But the "Eagle," as Ditka called his three-back offense, did not have a strong side until one of the backs went in motion. It had a balanced backfield, with Payton directly behind the ball, six yards back, and a fullback and tight end 4½ yards behind the guard-tackle holes.

By
Kevin
Lamb

One of the up backs always went in motion. If he ran away from the paired strong-side linebackers, the offense matched its strong side to the defense's weak side. If he ran toward the paired linebackers, he weakened that side. One of the linebackers had to follow him.

"They couldn't do what they wanted to do with that defense," Ditka said. "You take one guy out of their immediate force program (against the run). The extra man we couldn't block. Now it evens up."

Against Philadelphia and then Green Bay, the Bears used three backs on about half their plays. It was a further development of Ditka's philosophy to confuse defenses by moving players around, not revealing until just before the snap where they'll come from.

"I don't think we're the kind of football team right now that can toe up to them and say, 'OK, we're going to line up in two formations and we're going to beat your nose in on the line of scrimmage,'" Ditka said. "We have to do some things to take advantage of what they're doing, or to get a force man out of where he wants to be. I believe the least they know about what we're doing, the better chance we have."

The Bears aren't the only team that feels that way. Defenses almost always base their calls on the offense's formation, which is their best clue to the play that's coming up. If the formation isn't established until right before the snap, the defense may not have time to recognize it.

The main advantage of three backs is the offense can load up for either a run or a pass. All three backs don't have to be running backs. They can be any combination of backs, tight ends or wide receivers. The defense doesn't know until the shifting and motion stop whether the offense is using one outside receiver or four.

"We feel like it gives us the opportunity to have the chalk last," says Al Saunders, the San Diego Chargers' receivers coach. Ditka admitted borrowing heavily from the Chargers, who used three backs much of last season. San Diego, of course, was also the birthplace of the one-



Jim McMahon and Walter Payton congratulate each other after their rout of Cincinnati on Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

back offense. San Diego is to NFL offense as Paris is to hemlines.

Another good reason for using three backs is depth at running back and a lack of wide receivers. The Bears have that problem. Dallas has it even more obviously. When Herschel Walker joined the Cowboys, coach Tom Landry had a problem of how to use him with Tony Dorsett. Who was going to block?

With three backs, he's using Walker and Dorsett without removing their blocking back, fullback Timmy Newsome. He's also using Walker as an outside receiver, where he doesn't have to survive the line of scrimmage to run in open fields.

With a young quarterback, the Bears didn't pass much from three-back sets. Mike Tomczak had enough trouble keeping the dozen-plus motion patterns straight for running plays. But San Diego passes often and well.

"If a team was willing to sit back and throw the ball off that formation, I think you could really hurt the defense, put some real holes in it," Ditka said after the Eagle game. "We had people open everywhere."

Backs are becoming popular as outside receivers even for teams that don't use three backs. The Bears did it much of last season with Dennis Gentry. They've sent Walter Payton wide this year.

In the opener, Cleveland halfback Earnest Byner lined up outside for most of his six catches. He gained 94 yards, including 40 on one short pass when he broke three tackles.

"The secret," strong safety Dave Duerson says of containing these broken-field threats, "is don't let him get the ball."

That's becoming a chore, too. These backs know how to get open. The Chargers trained halfback Gary Anderson as a wide receiver through training camp. They did the same thing last year with Lionel James, who set a record for receiving yards by a back.

Receiving back could turn into a new position. It has been a third-down position for some time now, but this was the first year a running back was a coveted first-round draft choice for his ability as an outside receiver. Ronnie Harmon wound up going to Buffalo, freeing Joe Cribbs for the same role in San Francisco.

The backs who turn up near the sidelines are no longer just scatbacks, either. Byner, Payton and Walker are big and strong. And even the smaller ones, such as the Chargers' James and Anderson, no longer have to fight through the congestion of the line to get into their routes.

"You're out there alone with a guy," says tight end Emery Moorehead. He knows the difference. He has played both fullback and wide receiver. He says, "That's why Dennis Gentry is having so much fun. Now all he's got to do is get past one guy."

And the one guy is usually a linebacker or a strong safety, normally the slowest defensive back. "If they bring a safety, they take away the possibility of double-covering both wide receivers," says Hughes. "If they play him with a linebacker, then you feel like you've got a mismatch in

your favor."

It's nothing new for a linebacker to cover a back. That happens all the time. But ordinarily, it has happened with backs running short routes from the backfield.

Now they're covering backs on fly patterns down the sideline. They're covering Walker and Anderson, backs who are fast even by wide receivers' standards. A defense would prefer to put a nickel back on them, but it can't tell from a substitution when they're going to line up wide. If they take handoffs, the defense wants a linebacker on them.

It's the offense's move this year in the coaching chess game. Offenses had fallen behind the defenses in the last two seasons, but the pendulum is swinging back. Teams averaged 23.4 points in the season's first week. Then it fell to 17.1 the second week and soared to 24.9 in the third.

That sort of fluctuation is liable to go on all year as the balance of power shifts. And if the three-back attack turns out to be the answer to the biggest defensive breakthrough in 15 years, next season will be the defenses' turn to come up with something new.

Bears' Schedule

REGULAR SEASON

BEARS 41, Cleveland 31

BEARS 13, Philadelphia 10 OT

BEARS 25, Green Bay 12

BEARS 44, Cincinnati 7

Sun., Oct. 5	MINNESOTA VIKINGS, Noon
Sun., Oct. 12	at Houston Oilers, Noon
Sun., Oct. 19	at Minnesota Vikings, Noon
Sun., Oct. 26	DETROIT LIONS, Noon
Mon., Nov. 3	L.A. RAMS, 8 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 9	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Noon
Sun., Nov. 16	at Atlanta Falcons, Noon
Sun., Nov. 23	GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon
Sun., Nov. 30	PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon
Sun., Dec. 7	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon
Mon., Dec. 15	at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21	at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.



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Doug's Picks

BEARS by 14 over **VIKINGS**
Important game for both teams

JETS by **SEVEN** over **BILLS**
New York playing well

BENGALS by 10 over **PACKERS**
Pack is helpless

BROWNS by **SEVEN** over **STEELERS**
Pittsburgh doesn't have much

BRONCOS by **THREE** over **COWBOYS**
Home field edge over Denver

LIONS by **SIX** over **OILERS**
Detroit tough at home

49ERS by 10 over **COLTS**
San Francisco still good

CHIEFS by **TWO** over **RAIDERS**
A close, tough game

PATRIOTS by 10 over **DOLPHINS**
New England will destroy Miami

GIANTS by **SIX** over **CARDINALS**
St. Louis hasn't shown much

FALCONS by **SIX** over **EAGLES**
Atlanta coming off tough win

RAMS by **SEVEN** over **BUCCANEERS**
Los Angeles is hot

REDSKINS by **FOUR** over **SAINTS**
Washington on a roll

SEAHAWKS by **SIX** over **CHARGERS**
Seattle having good year

Last week's record: 10-3
Season record: 35-20



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Coach Mike Ditka didn't look like he was in a good mood

Sunday despite winning 44-7 at Cincinnati. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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0-2 teams aren't dreaming Super Bowl

No team has ever rebounded from a 0-2 start and wound up in the Super Bowl. Which is probably why the winless Raiders held a 'players only' meeting after their second loss recently.

"Most of it was private," said cornerback Mike Haynes of the meeting. "We just talked about the situation we're in at 0-2. We wanted to tell the young guys on the team not to give up and the good things will happen."

After a 1-2 start last year the Raiders held a similar 'players only' meeting. They responded by winning their next five before finishing 12-4 to become AFC West champions.

The last time the Raiders started 0-2 was 1964 when

By Brian Hewitt

NFL Notebook

present owner Al Davis was their coach and present coach Tom Flores was their quarterback. That team finished 5-7-2 after losing its first five games.

This time the results were not as immediate. The Raiders lost their third game, 14-9 to the Giants.

*NFL defensive minds are still trying to figure out how the Giants limited the high-powered Charger offense to seven points recently after allowing Dallas to score 31 points in Week One.

Turns out the Giants solicited and received extensive help from two of San Diego's AFC West rivals — Kansas City and Denver. Giant coach Bill Parcells called Chief coach John Mackovic and Bronco coach Dan Reeves and asked if their defensive coaches would tutor his defensive assistants. Both teams agreed. "The Giants really picked (Kansas City defensive coordinator) Walt Corey's mind," Mackovic said. "I just hope Walt coaches our defense as well against San Diego as he did New York's."

Asked if he expected San Diego coach Don Coryell to be upset with this development, Mackovic said, "I'm sure he won't be pleased. But I hope he doesn't get mad at me. He's one of the few coaches I get along with."

Said Coryell: "I don't mind. There's nothing wrong with that. Kansas City and Denver want us to lose and we want them to lose. It does say one thing about them though, it says they are concerned and worried."

*Former Colt placekicker Raul Allegre priced himself out of a job recently when the Giants needed a replacement for Ali Haji-Sheikh and Bob Thomas.

Parcells wanted to sign Allegre until the former Texas kicker asked for bonuses that would pay him an extra \$4,000 for every field goal and \$1,000 for each extra point.

The Giants ended up signing Joe Cooper. Cooper was working as a law clerk in a California superior court when the Giants called. Cooper converted two of three in New York's 20-7 victory over San Diego.

In the last two years the Giants have had five different kickers.

*Despite dire predictions by its critics, the instant replay has not slowed the length of the average NFL game so far.

After two weeks the average NFL game was three hours, nine minutes and 57 seconds. Last year after two weeks the average was 3:12.02.

*Former Notre Dame quarterback Blair Kiel was trying out with the Canadian Football League's Edmonton Eskimos when the emergency call came from Miami, where the Colts had just lost starter Gary Hogeboom for the season.

"It was a two-hour drive from the Arctic Circle in 20 degrees," Kiel said. "A call from Miami sure sounded nice at that point."

*First-year Saints coach Jim Mora on why he requires players to wear coats and ties on road trips: "I'm not sure there's a connection between wearing a coat and tie and winning, but we're representing a first-class organization, a first-class city and a first-class league, and I want them to look the part."

*In the wake of the back injury that has endangered 49er quarterback Joe Montana's career, Cardinal wide receiver

Pat Tilley is suffering from a "bulging disc" in his lower back.

The disc is rubbing against a nerve and could cost Tilley his career. Tilley will miss at least four weeks.

St. Louis' other wide receiver, Roy Green, has already had three different injuries this year.

In 1984 Green caught 12 touchdown passes, averaging 56 yards apiece. Since the first game of the 1985 season he hasn't caught one pass more than 47 yards. Green was also hurt much of last year.

*The 49ers have an estimated \$3.5 million tied up in salaries for their 16 players on injured reserve.

Heading the list are Montana (\$1,000,000), running back Wendell Tyler (\$500,000) and cornerback Eric Wright (\$325,000).

*Viking guard Jim Hough needed three IV bottles of dextrose between the stadium and the airport in Tampa Bay recently. Temperature on the field during the Vikings' win reached 118 degrees.

"You could soak his pants in Lake Minnetonka and they wouldn't have been any wetter," said Minnesota coach Jerry Burns. "I've never seen anybody perspire like that in all my years in football."

NOTES AND QUOTES: A highly-placed NFL official says the Packers were much closer to winning the Jim

Everett trade derby than most people realize. Everett, the former Purdue quarterback and third pick of the 1986 draft, wound up traded to the Rams from Houston last week.... When the wife of Miami quarterback Dan Marino gave birth to a baby boy recently, Dolphin coach Don Shula wasted no time. "We sent our player personnel director (Chuck Connor) over to check out his moves," Shula said. "It might be the earliest scouting report in football history."... Look for new Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist to be favorable toward the NFL's bid for an anti-trust exemption.... NFL football provided ABC-TV with its only two top 20 shows during the week of Sept. 8 through Sept. 14.... Since the NFL-AFL merger, only five percent of the teams that have lost their first two games have rebounded to win their divisions.... Richard Woods, one of Bo Jackson's agents, on Tampa Bay's failed negotiating techniques: "You know the one question nobody ever asked us? Nobody ever asked us what it would take to play for Tampa Bay."... New Orleans general manager Jim Finks on talk the Rams gave up too much for quarterback Jim Everett: "The way they (the Rams) finish they figured to be drafting in the bottom third of the draft every year. They either get lucky on a guy like Montana who was taken in the third round or they bite the bullet. They bit the bullet."... Giant running back Joe Morris was held to zero or minus yards 14 times in the first half of the 1985 season. Recently he was held to zero or minus yards 15 times against San Diego.

American Conference						
Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	3	1	0	.750	111	96
New England	2	2	0	.500	104	74
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	91	94
Miami	1	3	0	.250	119	142
Indianapolis	0	4	0	.000	27	113
Central Division						
Cincinnati	2	2	0	.500	87	114
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	91	112
Houston	1	3	0	.250	80	.75
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	.250	30	98
Western Division						
Denver	4	0	0	1.000	119	73
Kansas City	3	1	0	.750	88	67
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	105	67
L.A. Raiders	1	3	0	.250	68	75
San Diego	1	3	0	.250	97	95

Sunday's Results						
Minnesota	42	Green Bay	7			
Chicago	44	Cincinnati	7			
Cleveland	24	Detroit	21			
Kansas City	20	Buffalo	17			
Philadelphia	34	L.A. Rams	20			
N.Y. Giants	20	New Orleans	17			
Pittsburgh	22	Houston	16 (ot)			
San Francisco	31	Miami	16			
Washington	19	Seattle	14			
N.Y. Jets	26	Indianapolis	7			
L.A. Raiders	17	San Diego	13			
Denver	27	New England	20			
Atlanta	23	Tampa Bay	20 (ot)			

National Conference						
Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	4	0	0	1.000	99	61
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0	.750	82	64
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	97	72
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	65	107
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	33	66
Central Division						
Chicago	4	0	0	1.000	123	60
Minnesota	3	1	0	.750	106	37
Detroit	1	3	0	.250	61	89
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	.250	61	97
Green Bay	0	4	0	.000	32	122
Western Division						
Atlanta	4	0	0	1.000	124	78
L.A. Raiders	3	1	0	.750	76	64
San Francisco	3	1	0	.750	101	56
New Orleans	1	3	0	.250	68	87



Dan Hampton puts the pressure on Cincinnati quarterback Doug Gaynor late in Sunday's game at Riverfront Stadium. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Defense finally gives fans their rout

All season Bear fans have been complaining that Chicago wasn't blowing out its opponents like it was at the end of last season.

Well, the Bears answered those fans on Sunday with their 44-7 rout of Cincinnati.

The defense was receiving the most abuse. But Sunday's performance should show quite a lot of people. The Bears' defense didn't allow the Bengals to do anything all day, except for the 51-yard pass Boomer Esiason completed to Mike Martin to set up Cincinnati's only score.

And even on that play, the Bears' defense put a lot of pressure on Esiason, as he had to escape two Bear linemen to get off the pass.

Mike Singletary gave the credit for the defense's performance to defensive coordinator Vince Tobin.

"The bottom line is we're getting better," Singletary said. "Vince Tobin really did a great job of preparing us for this game. It worked out well."

What's more amazing about the defense's performance is that the unit did the job with one less day to prepare. The Bears came off their Monday night game against Green Bay already four days behind the Bengals, who came off a Thursday night win over Cleveland.

That one less day of work may have been more of a factor than usual for this game because of Cincinnati's complex offense. The Bengals aren't afraid to try everything against a team.

"It was important for us to get a fast start," said safety Gary Fencik. "And we did it both defensively and offensively. After that we just piled it right up."

Early in the game Cincinnati tried to confuse the Bears, as it has tried in the past, by running a hurry up offense with no huddle. But the problem was, it seemed the no-huddle offense confused the Bengals more than the Bears.

"It was very effective for the Chicago Bears," Fencik said.

The Bears also had a good pass rush this game, something that hasn't always been there this year. That may have been one reason why Cincinnati's quarterbacks, first Esiason and then Ken Anderson, were overthrowing their receivers so often.

"I think it probably had something to do with the pres-

sure up front," Fencik said. "Esiason just didn't seem to be throwing the ball very well. It was easy to read where he was throwing the ball."

And that was one reason why Cincinnati threw five interceptions for the day.

Against the run the Bears were playing their usual game, holding the Bengals to just 60 yards rushing. The starting backfield for Cincinnati, James Brooks and big Larry Kinnebrew, was held to just 19 yards rushing on nine carries.

Seven points is the fewest the Bears have given up this year. And now Chicago has given up just 29 points in its last three games.

Opponents' third-down efficiency has been another area of concern for the Bears' defense. Bear opponents had been averaging over 50 percent on third-down conversions. But the Bengals made just four of 14 third-down attempts for 28 percent.

Interceptions

Continued From Page 3

McMahon left the game completing 13 of 21 passes for 211 yards. He threw three touchdown passes and had one interception.

McMahon wasn't surprised at his numbers. "I've been throwing for two weeks. It's not like I came out of a coffin," he said.

Thomas scores two touchdowns

Thomas Sanders then scored the first of his two touchdowns in the second half on a one-yard run just before the end of the third quarter. Steve Fuller, who replaced McMahon with 5:44 left in the quarter, completed two of four passes on the drive for 48 yards.

Sanders increased Chicago's lead in the fourth quarter with a 75-yard touchdown run down the sideline. Butler's extra-point attempt was blocked, making the score 44-7.

Sanders said that was his longest run since 1978 when he was in high school. "I think I was overdue for that one," he said. "The offensive line did a good job. They opened up some holes. The backs did their job by hitting the holes when they saw an opening."

"There were holes big enough to drive a truck through," Ditka said.

Sanders gained 95 yards on just four carries.

Things also are made easier when the game plan works. "We had a pretty good game plan going in and just did

the things we said we'd do during the week," Sanders said.

It doesn't hurt having your number one quarterback in the lineup, either.

"I think the big difference is that we passed the ball a little bit more and we got opportunities to get big plays," Gault said. "I think we're right where we were last year."

Ditka said, "When we have Jim in there operating we can score points. There's no question about it. And you're not afraid to make mistakes. You can always come back and overcome it."

Now that's called having confidence in your quarterback.

GAME NOTES: Sunday's game was the first regular season game the Bears have played at Cincinnati. The teams only met twice previously, with the Bengals winning both games. Cincinnati holds a 4-2 advantage in preseason games... In their last 46 games, the Bears are 37-9 and hold a 35-4 record when leading after the third quarter... Walter Payton's second quarter touchdown against Green Bay was the 113th of his career, tying him with Lenny Moore for second in career touchdowns on the all-time NFL list. Jim Brown is the leader with 126... Receiving game balls after the Green Bay game were Keith Ortego, Steve Fuller, Richard Dent and Steve McMichael... McMichael's safety against Green Bay was the second consecutive time

Continued Page 16



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Thomas Sanders (20) and Willie Gault both had big days for the Bears Sunday. Gault caught five passes and Sanders ran for 95 yards on five carries. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Bear Report Letters

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BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. **BEAR REPORT** does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Put Walter in Hall of Fame Now

Dear Editor,

I just want to say the more I see Walter Payton play the more he amazes me. He is 32 years old and he plays with the same intensity and enthusiasm as he did in his rookie year. I believe that Walter is the best athlete to ever play the game of football. He has a lot of character on the playing field as well as off the playing field. Walter Payton should be the first and only active player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Mark Benain
Thornton, IL

Closet Gentry Fan Comes Out

Dear Editor,

First, my congratulations to Walter Payton on 15,000 yards — what more can be said!

I have been a closet fan of Dennis Gentry for years. I can't remember seeing a running back so explosive off the mark. I'm so glad to see him as a starter. He's earned it and he's proving to be a vital offensive weapon.

Finally, I've been a fan for 29 years and was only recently turned on to Bear Report — I can't wait to get Friday's mail.

Love ya Bears and BEAR REPORT.

Charles Cusumano
Denver, CO

With McMahon, Bears Will Win'

Dear Doug,

I wanted to write to let a couple of my feelings out about the Bears' 1986 season. Last year was a dream season that I've been waiting for since my first year as a Bear fan back in 1968.

The Bears went out and manhandled everyone in their way to the world championship, and of course the Super Bowl slaughter of the New England Patriots.

The 1986 Bears I don't think can go out and win in the same fashion as the '85 group, but there is no way they can't also win the whole thing again. I really think the only thing in their path is the Bears themselves. If they want it bad enough and there is not a serious injury to Jim McMahon, the Bears should be the first repeat champions since the great Pittsburgh Steeler teams of the 1970s.

Another point I wanted to talk about was the letter sent by big John Johnson, the Cowboy fan. Sounds like John's a little jealous because the Bears dominated his very below average Cowboy team of last season. Well John, get ready its de jeu time in Texas Stadium, 1986 style. The Bears will take on Dorsett and Walker with no problem at all, because neither one can even block my grandmother, let alone any of the Bears talented defensive team. But John the only thing that might be different is the Bears might play their No. 1 quarterback, Jim McMahon, this time around. And last but not least as every Bear fan knows, Walter Payton is still the best all-around running back in the NFL this year, and of all time!"

Walt Morris
Noblesville, IN

Media Shouldn't Hype Bears

Dear Doug,

I grew up in a family of Bear fans, especially my father. I remember when the Bears lost a game he wouldn't talk for several days after. Unfortunately my father passed away before seeing the Bears make their way to Super Bowl XX, but I'm sure he sat right next to Papa Bear Halas rooting them on to victory with the best seats in the house.

Now a new season begins and I just finished watching the Bears vs. Eagles game where the Bears won. I suppose now all I'm going to hear on T.V. and read in the papers is the rivalry between Ditka and Ryan, as if we haven't heard it all by now. Don't people get tired of this? I know I do.

What really gets me is the media and sports announcers. They're the first ones to put teams high up on pedestals. When they're winning and doing things right and also the first ones to make bad comments when they're not doing so well.

I'm very happy the Bears had a great season and won the Super Bowl, but whoever thought it was going to lead to comparing the whole '85 season with the first two games of the regular season this year?

So the Bears haven't started out so good. They still have what it takes, just give it time, at least till mid-season. Sometimes I just want to turn the volume down on the T.V. so I don't have to listen to the announcers. I'm sure I'm not the only one tired

of this. The Bears probably are too. Can you imagine how they feel? All they hear is "Can the Bears do it again this year?"

Why don't they all just give the team and fans a break and let them just start the season with good intentions of going to Super Bowl XXI. Even though they're a spectacular team they may lose two, three or even more games. And if they don't make it to the next Super Bowl we all have to remember, they're only human.

Teresa Fox
Fairbury, NE

Bears Should Sign Ellard

Dear Doug,

I have been very concerned with the play of the Bears, the first two weeks of the season. I've received a considerable amount of flack on how many points the Bears allowed against Cleveland. When I mention the fact that Cleveland only led for 19 seconds of the game, they respond by saying that the Bears were lucky, giving the Bears no credit. Buddy Ryan's Philadelphia 46 kept the Bears offense scoreless during the first half of that game. And when Payton came back and scored early in the third quarter, still no respect.

I think what opposing fans need to see is the Bears scoring 40 or 50 points a game. And the only way to do that is with better players.

There's a wide receiver in this town by the name of Henry Ellard of the Rams. He's having contract problems. The Rams don't want to pay him. I hate to see Mr. Ellard lose a year of his pro football career like Todd Bell and Al Harris did in '85. Seeing Henry in a Bears' uniform opposite Willie Gault would surely scare defenses throughout the NFL.

Miami has Duper and Clayton, we could have Gault and Ellard. Ask Mike Ditka for five minutes of his valuable time to think about that possibility. In closing I would especially like to thank Vester Jackson for his fumble recovery in overtime (he's from Fresno too) and the whole Bear team for continuing to always Bear Down!

Randy Walker
Fresno, CA

Defense ahead of last year

Defensive coordinator Vince Tobin has received a lot of heat from fans so far this year about the defensive play.

Last week, the Bears' public relations department put together some statistics comparing this year's defense with last year's after three games.

The numbers may surprise some people.

After three games in 1985 the Bears gave up 59 points. This year they've given up 53. In 1985 the Bears gave up 958 total yards, 227 rushing and 731 passing.

This year the Bears have given up 874 yards, 217 rushing and 657 passing.

But in sacks, the Bears recorded 12 after three games in 1985, compared to eight in 1986.



Walter Payton charges ahead and keeps his balance on a run against the Bengals Sunday at Riverfront Stadium. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Vikings

Continued From Page 8

son has rushed for 232 yards on 51 carries, a 4.5 average. As a team, the Vikings are averaging over four yards per carry on the ground.

The performance of the Vikings' offensive line also is a major factor in the offense's turnaround. Led by Zimmerman at left tackle, the line also includes left guard Jim Hough, center Dennis Swilley, right guard Terry Tausch and right tackle Tim Irwin. This group has been giving Kramer adequate protection, as evidenced by just seven sacks allowed in four games.

Defensively, the Vikings have been limiting opponents to 260 yards per game. Last Sunday, the Packers were held to 220 yards, including just 82 on the ground. Minnesota also did a good job stopping the pass plays, as Green Bay posted only 163 yards through the air. The Vikings also recorded four sacks on Green Bay quarterbacks and intercepted two passes.

Prior to the Green Bay game, Minnesota's defense ranked fourth in the NFL. It was 18th against the rush, and second against the pass. Obviously, those rankings will improve this week.

The heroes on defense have been many. Strong safety Joey Browner has done a great job out of the backfield as he leads the team in tackles. But the linebackers also are getting the job done. That crew includes Chris Dole-

are getting the job done. That crew includes Chris Dole-



man (left), Scott Studwell (middle) and David Howard (right). Minnesota's front line also has done well. Besides Millard, the starters are left end Doug Martin, left tackle Neil Elshire and right end Mark Mullaney. Through four games, the Vikings have recorded 10 sacks.

Minnesota's defense also has been productive intercepting passes. It has recorded eight in four games.

Special teams also are producing

Productive special teams are another reason why the Vikings are in the hunt for the division title. Placekicker Chuck Nelson has connected on all five of his field goal attempts and also has added 13 PAT's for a total of 28 points. Through three weeks, punter Greg Coleman led the league with a 46.2 average.

Kick returner Buster Rhymes is averaging 25.3 per attempt while Rufus Bess has a 7.9 average on punt returns. The Vikings have allowed just 19 yards per kickoff return and 5.1 on punt returns.

The Bears are expecting a tough battle at Soldier Field next Sunday when the Vikings come to town. Kramer has always been a nemesis of the Chicago defense. Last year at the Metrodome, he completed 28 of 55 passes for 436 yards and three touchdowns.

"When you're the defending champion, every game is tough. This one will be no exception," says Bears' tight end Emery Moorehead.

"We are looking forward to the Vikings. It will be a good football game," added Chicago head coach Mike Ditka.

Interception

Continued From Page 14

he recorded a safety at Green Bay. . . Not including the Cincinnati game, Chicago has outrushed 42 of its last 45 opponents, won 17 straight games on artificial turf, held the time of possession edge in 45 of its last 48 games, and outscored 20 of its last 23 opponents in the second half. . . Mike Hartenstine tied the Bears record for consecutive games played on Sunday. The 12-year veteran played his 167th consecutive game against the Bengals, tying him with punter Bob Parsons for the Bears record. Hartenstine has never missed a game since joining Chicago as a second-round draft choice in 1975. Other Bears with consecutive starting streaks alive going into the Cincinnati game include Walter Payton, 155; Mike Singletary, 72; Jay Hilgenberg, 48; Steve McMichael, 46; and Matt Suhey, 40.

Next week's issue

Next week's issue of Bear Report will include complete coverage of the Minnesota game at Soldier Field. The game is an important one, with the Vikings staying closest to the Bears at 3-1. The two teams meet again two weeks later.

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